

Express Mail No.: EV530944081US
International Application No.: PCT/SE2004/000520
International Filing Date: 2 April 2004
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying
Substitute Specification

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A seal comprising a sealing meansarrangement (34) which is applicable in a mounting (32) and intended for a lid (16) of an isostatic press (10), said lid having a first position in which it-the lid closes a pressure chamber of the isostatic press and a second position in which it-the lid is separated from the pressure chamber, the sealing meansarrangement being applicable in the mounting so that, in said first position, it-the sealing arrangement seals between the lid and a pressure chamber wall (14);

characterised

in that the sealing meansarrangement comprises comprising at least two individual circular-arc-shaped segments (36, 76a-b, 78a-e) which together form a closed ring when they are placed in the mounting; and

by wherein a stop arrangement (60, 62, 64, 92a-e, 94a-d, 96a-b, 98a, 100, 102, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118) is arranged to limit movements of the segments so that these segments are kept in the mounting also in said second position.

2. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one part of said stop arrangement is detachably arranged on the segments.

3. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said stop arrangement comprises a set of stop elements (60, 92a-e, 110, 114, 116,

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118), the movement of each segment being limited by at least one stop element, each stop element limiting only the movement of one segment.

4. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 3, wherein each stop element is arrangeable so as to extend between a mounting forming portion and a segment, and so as to be movably arranged relative to the segment, but fixedly arranged relative to the mounting forming portion or vice versa.

5. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stop element (92a, 94a-e), such a screw, bolt or pin, is fixedly arrangeable in said mounting forming portion and has a stop portion extending into a recess (96a) in the segment, the extent of the recess in the radial direction of extension of the sealing meansarrangement being greater than the extent of the stop portion in said direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in any one of claims 1-5claim 1, which further comprises a spring assembly (50, 86a, 114) which is arranged to actuate the segments, each segment, when placed in the mounting, being subjected to a force directed outwards in the radial direction of extension of the sealing meansarrangement.

7. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 6, wherein said spring assembly comprises a set of individual springs (50, 86a, 114), each segment being actuated by at least one spring, each spring actuating one segment only.

8. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 7, wherein each segment comprises a plurality of cavities (52, 84a), each cavity being adapted to

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receive a spring which is adapted to extend, in the radial direction of extension of the sealing ~~meansarrangement~~, from a mounting forming portion into the cavity.

9. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in claim 8, wherein each spring is loosely arranged without being fixed in said cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ claim 1, wherein each segment has, at both ends, a projecting portion (38, 40) which, with the segments placed in the mounting, overlaps a corresponding projecting portion of an adjoining segment.

11. (Currently Amended) A-The seal as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, wherein said mounting comprises a circular groove (32) in a seal holder (30) belonging to the lid.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a lid (16)-adapted to close a pressure chamber of an isostatic press-(10), comprising:

using as a seal a set of individual circular-arc-shaped segments (36, 76a-b, 78a-e);

placing each segment in a mounting (32)-belonging to the lid, so that the segments together form a closed ring and seal between the lid and a pressure chamber wall (14)-when the lid closes the pressure chamber; and

locking each segment so that its mobility in the radial direction of extension of the lid is limited, and so that the segments are kept in the mounting also when the lid is removed from the pressure chamber.

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13. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in claim 12, which further comprises actuating each segment by a spring force (50, 86a, 114) directed outwards in the radial direction of extension of the lid, so that the radial position of the segments is adjusted to the expansion of the pressure chamber during a press operation.

14. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in claim 12-or-13, in which the seal is established by placing and locking one segment at a time.

15. (Currently Amended) An isostatic press, comprising:
a pressure chamber;
a lid for closing the pressure chamber, said lid having a first position in which it closes the pressure chamber and a second position in which it is separated from the pressure chamber;
a mounting for receiving a sealing arrangement; and
a seal as claimed in any one of claims 1-11a sealing arrangement which is applicable in said mounting and intended for said lid, the sealing arrangement being arranged to, in said first position of the lid, seal between the lid and a pressure chamber wall, the sealing arrangement comprising at least two individual circular-arc-shaped segments which together form a closed ring when they are placed in the mounting; and
a stop arrangement arranged to limit movements of the segments so that the segments are kept in the mounting also in said second position.

16.-18. (Canceled)